

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 497

By Herron

A RESOLUTION skirting the niceties of legal education.

WHEREAS, when over 165 years ago Charles Dickens wrote that "the law is an a--," he could not have possibly foreseen the fateful presence of Jerry Cooper in the Tennessee Senate; and

WHEREAS, often confused with the Man from Glad, the gentleman from Smartt is daily involved in political intrigues that would cause Machiavelli to shake his head in awesome admiration, having developed a special predilection for the law and its many loopholes; and

WHEREAS, the distinguished Senator Cooper frequently, and famously, declares: "*I am not a lawyer, but...*"; and

WHEREAS, steadfastly refusing to allow the lack of a law degree hold him back, Senator Cooper has forged stalwartly ahead in his mission of interpreting the law *ad infinitum* in committee meetings, on the Senate floor, and to everyone between Nashville and McMinnville yearning for free legal advice; and

WHEREAS, Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes could not have opined more confidently on the most cryptic precepts of American jurisprudence than Senator Cooper does daily, albeit with no authority and while professing little knowledge of jurisprudence; and

WHEREAS, as a man of great principle, Senator Cooper has never allowed those cursed green books to get in the way of what he knows is the law, or at least should be the law; and

WHEREAS, the rigors of graduating from law school and passing the bar examination are indeed important milestones in becoming an attorney, but they are not so essential that they

should be used to unjustly deny this noble man the right to practice the profession for which he was so obviously born; and

WHEREAS, Senator Cooper is married to a law student, the lovely and lawful Lisa, who has taught the Senator so very much and is undoubtedly his most important qualification in every way; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that notwithstanding the Tennessee Supreme Court, Tennessee Code Annotated, and the Board of Law Examiners, the Honorable Senator Jerry Cooper of Smartt Station is hereby designated a full blown Philadelphia lawyer by his fellow members of the Senate, and via such questionable licensure he is extended the right to practice law anywhere in Tennessee, including the Senate floor, but excluding the court system or any other venue where a law degree is actually required.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in celebration of this happy occasion, Senator Cooper is also designated "Chief Counsel for the Senate" and accorded all rights, privileges and appurtenances of such august office, including free coffee and doughnuts for life and the right to speak authoritatively on each and every piece of legislation, regardless of its subject matter. He is further entitled, even sentenced, to serve the rest of his life on the Senate Judiciary Committee as a non-voting, but loquacious and lawful, legal eagle.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in observance of the most ancient and hallowed traditions of the law, the Chief Clerk of the Senate is directed to hire a scrivener to emboss the contents of this resolution upon Senator Cooper's forehead.